CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. In a servlet development environment, an automated servlet configuration file generation method, comprising the steps of:

   querying a subject servlet for associated servlet configuration data through the servlet development environment; and,

   incorporating said servlet configuration data in a servlet configuration file,

   whereby said servlet configuration file can be processed in an application server to explicitly configure said subject servlet.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

   selecting a servlet super class;

   identifying each servlet which extends from said selected super class; and,

   performing said querying and incorporating steps for each said identified servlet.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

   identifying at least one abstract class implemented by said servlet; and,

   omitting said at least one abstract class during said performing step.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

   identifying at least one package, said package comprising at least one of said identified servlets; and,

4   omitting said at least one identified servlet in said package during said

5   performing step.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2   identifying at least one configuration processing wrapper, said configuration

3   processing wrapper providing additional instructions for incorporating said servlet

4   configuration data in said servlet configuration file; and,

5   performing said incorporating step according to said additional instructions in

6   said wrapper.

1   6.   In a Web application development environment, an automated Web application

2   archive file generation method, comprising the steps of:

3   querying a subject Web application for associated Web application configuration

4   data through the Web application development environment;

5   incorporating said Web application configuration data in a Web application

6   configuration descriptor; and,

7   archiving said subject Web application and said Web application descriptor in a

8   Web application archive file,

9   whereby said Web application configuration descriptor can be processed in an

10   application server to explicitly configure said Web application.

1   7.   A servlet development environment comprising:

2   a servlet development environment for editing, compiling and configuring servlets

3   for deployment in an application server;

4   an automated servlet configuration tool, said automated servlet configuration tool

5   comprising a servlet query engine for querying servlets for associated servlet

6   configuration data, and a servlet configuration file processor for formatting said

7   associated servlet configuration data into a servlet configuration file which can be

8   processed in said application server; and,

9   a graphical user interface (GUI) through which users can select processing

10   parameters utilized by said automated servlet configuration tool when performing said

11   querying and formatting.

8.   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for

2   automating the generation of a servlet configuration file, said computer program

3   comprising a routing set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

4   querying a subject servlet for associated servlet configuration data through an

5   interface to a servlet development environment; and,

6   incorporating said servlet configuration data in a servlet configuration file,

7   whereby said servlet configuration file can be processed in an application server

8   to explicitly configure said subject servlet.

1   9.   The machine readable storage of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

2   selecting a servlet super class;

3   identifying each servlet which extends from said selected super class; and,

4   performing said querying and incorporating steps for each said identified servlet.

1   10.   The machine readable storage of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

2   identifying at least one abstract class implemented by said servlet; and,

3   omitting said at least one abstract class during said performing step.

1   11.   The machine readable storage of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

2   identifying at least one package, said package comprising at least one of said

3   identified servlets; and,

4   omitting said at least one identified servlet in said package during said

5   performing step.

1   12.   The machine readable storage of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

2   identifying at least one configuration processing wrapper, said configuration

3   processing wrapper providing additional instructions for incorporating said servlet

4   configuration data in said servlet configuration file; and,

5   performing said incorporating step according to said additional instructions in

6   said wrapper.

1   13.   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for

2   automating the generation of a Web application archive file, said computer program

3   comprising a routing set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

4   querying a subject Web application for associated Web application configuration

5   data through an interface to a Web application development environment;

6   incorporating said Web application configuration data in a Web application

7   configuration descriptor; and,

8   archiving said subject Web application and said Web application descriptor in a

9   Web application archive file,

10   whereby said Web application configuration descriptor can be processed in an

11   application server to explicitly configure said Web application.